



# MEDIA RELEASE

City of Medicine Hat - 500 First Street S.E. - Medicine Hat, Alberta, T1A 5E8 - (403) 562-5571

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
AUGUST 24, 2007**

## **CITY TO INTRODUCE A NEW AUTOMATED SOLID WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM**

**Medicine Hat** - The City of Medicine Hat is implementing the first phase of a new, automated system for the weekly collection of garbage.

The new system will be gradually phased-in with the intent to be fully operational throughout the City within the next few years.

Beginning in September 2007, the new, automated system of garbage collection will start in two specific neighbourhoods for the development phase of the program.

Residents in the selected neighbourhoods will receive notice of the start date for the automated collection program. The Solid Waste Utility will deliver a 96-gallon cart to each of the selected households. Information on the automated garbage collection program and instructions for use will be provided with the carts.

Residents with automated collection are provided with a special weather-resistant garbage cart that the resident rolls to the front curb or rear lane on the day of collection. The waste will be collected from the carts using a special truck equipped with a mechanical arm that automatically picks up the cart, empties it and then returns the cart to the original position.

"This automated system of solid waste collection has been used successfully in many different municipalities throughout North America," says Terry Drabble, Solid Waste Superintendent. "This new system will result in significant positive changes to our present system. It is safer, more convenient and more efficient."

The system utilizes a serial number to identify each cart which is assigned to a specific address. If a resident moves, the cart must remain with the property for the next resident to use. The carts are the property of City and will be replaced at the end of their life cycle.

"These carts will replace garbage cans or bags currently used by residents," adds Drabble. "Residents will place their normal household waste in the new cart, and roll the cart out to the front curb or rear lane by 7 a.m. on their regularly scheduled collection day."

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Residents are responsible for routine maintenance such as keeping the carts clean, removing the carts from the street or lane after collection and storing the carts in a safe place. Carts requiring repairs will be serviced by the Solid Waste Utility. Any carts that are stolen, or damaged through neglect or misuse, will be replaced at the property owners' expense.

Automated collection will be phased in gradually throughout the city. Residents will be notified prior to the program launch in their area. The City will provide detailed information to every resident shortly before their residence is scheduled for conversion to automated collection. The City will then deliver the new carts to residents and provide detailed program information with cart delivery.

"The new automated system has received positive response from numerous communities in which it was introduced," says Drabble. "Residents find the system easy to use and appreciate the benefits of a clean neighbourhood. The system will also significantly reduce injuries to workers."

For more information: please refer to the City's website at [www.medicinehat.ca](http://www.medicinehat.ca) or contact the Environmental Utilities department at 529-8176 during business hours.

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